Twenty first Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health to the Holsworthy Rural District Council for the Year ending December 31st 1894; containing the Vital Statistics of the Sanitary condition of the District.

Presented February 27th 1895.

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Table 1

Population in 1881	8904
Population in 1891	8942
Increase	38
Area in acres	83119
Density of Population per acre	1 in 9·2
Inhabited Houses	1832
Births registered in 1894	233
Deaths registered in 1894	142
Natural Increase.	91
Birth Rate	26·0
Death Rate	15·8

1894

Births.

Districts.	1 M.D.	2 Hols½	3 B^k Tor^s	4 Ash^s	5 Claw^s	Total	Rate
March Quarter.	14	23	14	4	11	66	29·5
June "	10	30	9	2	11	62	27·7
September "	9	15	10	5	6	45	20·1
December "	16	26	9	2	7	60	26·8
Totals.	49	94	42	13	35	233	26·0

Deaths.

March Quarter	7	14	11	7	9	48	21·4
June "	8	12	12	2	3	37	16·5
September "	9	6	0	2	3	20	8·9
December "	13	10	4	3	7	37	16·5
Totals.	37	42	27	14	22	142	15·8

Table II

Showing the number of Births and Deaths in each Sub-registration District in the Union during the Year 1894

Districts.		Births					Deaths			
	Quarters	M	F	Total	Rate		M	F	Total	Rate
Milton Damerel.	March	6	8	14	27·4		5	2	7	13·7
	June	6	4	10	19·6		5	3	8	15·6
Popn 2039	Septr	3	6	9	17·6		4	5	9	17·6
	Decr	8	8	16	31·3		5	8	13	25·5
	Total.	23	26	49	24·0		19	18	37	18·1
	March	12	11	23	31·6		7	7	14	19·2
Holsworthy	June	17	13	30	41·2		6	6	12	16·5
	Septr	6	9	15	20·6		2	4	6	8·2
Popn 2908	Decr	13	13	26	35·7		4	6	10	13·7
	Total	48	46	94	32·3		19	23	42	14·4
	March	6	8	14	33·4		7	4	11	26·3
Black	June	6	3	9	21·5		7	5	12	28·6
Torrington.	Septr	3	7	10	23·8		0	0	0	0
	Decr	3	6	9	21·5		2	2	4	9·5
Popn 1673	Total	18	24	42	25·1		16	11	27	16·1
	March	2	2	4	21·1		4	3	7	37·0
Ashwater	June	-	2	2	10·5		2	-	2	10·5
	Septr	3	2	5	26·4		2	-	2	10·5
Popn 756	Decr	2	-	2	10·5		2	1	3	15·8
	Total	7	6	13	17·1		10	4	14	18·5
	March	6	5	11	28·0		4	5	9	22·9
Clawton.	June	5	6	11	28·0		1	2	3	7·6
	Septr	3	3	6	15·3		1	2	3	7·6
Popn 1566	Decr	2	5	7	17·8		2	5	7	17·8
	Total	16	19	35	22·3		8	14	22	4·0
Total Population 8942	Totals	112	121	233	26·0		72	70	142	15·8

Showing the number of Deaths - the Death-rate of each Parish - and the mean Death-rate for the last 20 Years.

	Population			Deaths		Rates		Mean 20 Years
	1871	1881	1891	1893	1894	1893	1894	
Abbots Bickington.	50	47	53	1	1	18·8	18·8	24·3
Ashwater.	849	849	756	17	14	22·4	18·5	16·1
Black Torrington.	997	670	619	15	15	24·2	24·2	15·1
Bradford.	372	477	482	7	6	14·5	12·4	14·3
Bradworthy.	930	887	861	20	18	23·2	20·9	15·5
Bridgerule.	417	363	367	7	9	19·0	24·5	22·6
Clawton.	520	445	461	13	8	28·1	17·3	15·2
Cookbury.	225	183	154	2	2	12·9	12·9	13·7
Halwill	243	317	418	7	4	16·7	9·5	21·1
Hollacombe.	92	115	91	1	2	10·8	21·9	21·3
Holsworthy.	1645	1716	1960	35	28	17·7	14·2	21·4
Luffincott.	62	62	101	1	1	9·9	9·9	16·1
Milton Damerel.	619	476	464	4	7	8·6	15·0	18·6
Pancrasweek.	352	318	362	3	4	8·2	11·0	13·1
Pyworthy.	530	529	495	6	8	12·1	16·1	12·3
Sutcombe.	420	407	351	4	4	11·3	11·3	12·4
Tamerton.	469	469	430	7	3	16·2	6·9	12·4
Tetcott.	276	263	207	6	1	28·9	4·8	13·4
Thornbury.	359	311	310	7	7	22·5	22·5	18·3
Totals	9427	8904	8942	163	142	18·2	15·8	16·2

Table IV

Showing the number of deaths from the Seven Principal Zymotic Diseases during the Year 1894, and Ages.

Ages	0 / 1	1 / 5	5 / 15	15 / 25	25 / 60	60 / 100	Under 5	Total
Diarhœa.						1	–	1
Diphtheria.		1					1	1
Scarlatina.					1		–	1
Whooping Cough.		3					3	3
Totals.		4			1	1	4	6

Table VIII

Deaths registered at several Groups of Ages from different Causes.

		0 / 1	1 / 5	5 / 15	15 / 25	25 / 60	60 / 100	Under 5	Tot.	Tot.
Class I	Ages.									
Zymotic Diseases.	Group I Miasmatic.									
	Diphtheria.		1					1	1	
	Influenza.	1				2	3	1	6	
	Scarlatina.					1			1	
	Whooping Cough.		3					3	3	
	Group II Diarrhoeal.									
	Diarrhea.						1		1	
	Dysentery.						1		1	
	Group VI Septic.									
	Pyæmia.			1					1	
										14
Class IV. Constitutional Diseases.	Cancer.					4	3		7	
	Pernicious Anæmia.					2			2	
	Phthisis.			1	1	8	1		11	
	Rheumatoid Arthritis.						2		2	
	Tabes Mesenterica.		1					1	1	
	Tubercular Meningitis.				1				1	
	Tubercular Peritonitis.			1					1	
	Tuberculosis.	1						1	1	
										26
Class V. Developmental Diseases.	Old age.						11		11	
	Premature Birth.	4						4	4	
										15

Table IX (continued)

Class IX.	Age	0 / 1	1 / 5	5 / 15	15 / 25	25 / 60	60 / 100	100 & upwards	Total	To
Local Diseases	**Group I** Diseases of the Nervous System									
	Epilepsy					1	11		12	
	Cerebral Tumour				1				1	
	Cerebro Spinal Meningitis				1				1	
	Convulsions	2						2	2	
	Stability						1		1	
	Insomnia or Delirium					1			1	
	Premature Birth	1			1			1	3	
	Diseases of Spine						1		1	
	Softening of Brain						2		2	
	Group II Diseases of the Circulatory System									
	Heart Disease (not Congt.)					5	4		9	
	Senile Gangrene						1		1	
	Group IX Diseases of the Respiratory System									
	Asthma						1		1	
	Bronchitis	7				4	6	1	17	
	Pleurisy							1	1	
	Pulmonary	0				3	4	6	13	
	Class X Diseases of the Digestive System									
	Dentition		1					1	1	

	Ages	0 /	1 / 5	5 / 15	15 / 25	25 / 60	60 / 100	Ages unknown	Total	Total
Class VI (continued)	Group V (continued)									
	Enteritis								1	
	Gastric ulcer					2			2	
	Gastro Enteritis								1	
	Peritonitis						1		1	
	Group VII Diseases of the Urinary System.									
	Bright's Disease								1	
	Disease of Prostate.						3		3	
	Interstitial Nephritis					1			1	
	Group X Diseases of the Organs of Generation									
	Fibroid Disease				1				1	
	Group XI Diseases of the Integumentary System									
	Pestran	1						1	1	84
Class XIII Ill-defined or not Specified Causes.	Premature	1	1					2	2	
	Sudden.	1						1	1	3.
	Totals.	25	8	3	7	36	63	33	142	142

Deaths registered at several Groups of Ages from Infectious Diseases [illegible]

Diseases.	Ages.							
			5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 60	60 to 100	over 5	Total.
1. Zymotic	1	4	1		3	5	5	14
2. Constitutional	1	1	2	2	4	6	2	26
3. Developmental	4					11	4	15
4. Local	7	2		5	17	41	9	82
5. Ill-defined	2	1					3	3
Totals.	25	8	3	7	24	63	33	140

Table III

Showing the Mortality from certain Classes of Disease, the Proportion to Population & Total Deaths and to 1000 Deaths.

Classes.	Deaths.	Proportion to Deaths	Proportion to 1000 Population	Proportion to [illegible]
1 Seven Principal Zymotic Diseases.	6	28·26	0·67	42·8
2. Pulmonary Diseases (not Phthisis)	33	4·55	3·68	232·3
3 Intemperate Diseases.	15	9·46	1·78	105·6
4. Wasting Diseases of Children	2	71·00	0·23	4·0
5. Convulsive Diseases of Children.	2	71·00	0·23	14·3
All other.	84	1·19	9·53	591·5
Special Causes. Pneumonia	10	10·4	1·57	86·2
Bronchitis	17	5·35	1·90	117
Cancer	7	20 28	0·78	43·2
Phthisis. Pulmonary	11	12·70	1·20	97·4
Heart Disease.	14	10·14	1·57	86·2

87	210	31·7	200	21·2	27/10·7			1	1	0	1		2	700	
1850	275	29·1	195	19·6	25/9·0			8	2					300	
	218	31·1	150	16·6	21/7·5	7								400	
2	274	30·4	151	16·7	20/6·4	63		1					3	300	
3	271	30·0	152	16·8	21/7·1	60		1			2	1	2	400	
4	275	30·1	150	16·6	19/7·3	64							2	400	
5	264	28·1	170	10·0	21/7·1	60	2	8	1	1	2		2	400	
6	288	31·4	158	17·5	25/10·0	60		5		2	5		2	400	
7	283	31·4	157	18·7	22/7·9	70				2	3		2	400	
8	259	27·7	150	15·5	21/7·0	67					2		2	400	
9	260	30·5	154	15·3	24/7·9	72				3			3	400	
1850	247	27·1	151	14·2	26/10·1	68			1	2	3		3	400	
1	237	28·7	146	14·0	23/7·0	69			1	3	3		1	400	
2	238	25·2	142	8·1	22/7·0	69		2	2		1		3	540	
3	254	28·6	143	18·2	20/6·2	84			1			1	6	316	
1850	235	26·0	142	21·1	21/7·1	63	—	—	1	1	3	—	1	355	62

Showing the routine Sanitary work done by the Health Officer of the District during the Year 1894

	1892	1893	1894
Number of Complaints	53	51	41
Houses, Premises etc: inspected by M.O.H.	742	693	630
Houses, Premises etc: inspected by Inspector of Nuisances.	1218	927	1014
Removals of Nuisances.	540	316	355
Wells secured against Pollution	15	5	11
Water certificates granted to new houses.	16	3	9
Privies newly built.	40	20	12
Houses and Schools disinfected and lime-washed.	17	10	30
Overcrowding abated.	5	7	2
Houses dealt with under H.W.C. act 1890.	2	10	8
Slaughter-houses inspected.	50	57	45
Legal Proceedings taken.	2	4	1
Special Drainage Improvements.	2	2	2
Special Reports by M.O.H.	1	–	1
Ordinary Monthly Reports by M.O.H.	18	13	12

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen.

I have the honour to submit to your Council the Twenty-first Annual Report on the Sanitary condition of the District for the year 1894.

The Report contains certain statistical returns and information in regard to the Births, Deaths and Sickness in the District, together with a Summary of Sanitary Works and Localities, together with a Summary of Sanitary duties carried out by your Health Officers during the year, in so far as they have had to do with matters affecting Health.

Births.

The number of Births registered during the year was 233, of which 112 were Males and 121 were Females, giving a rate of 26·0 as compared with 30·6 in 1893. The Birth-rate is 5 below that for England and Wales and as I have pointed out in a former Report the rate for this District has for some years back been gradually falling. Twenty years ago the average Birth-rate was 33·4 and from that it has fallen to 26·0. The solution of the cause of this decrease is not difficult and we naturally look for a decrease in the number of Marriages but from figures at my disposal the decrease is not sufficient to account for the fall in the Birth-rate.

Deaths.

The number of Deaths amounts to 142 giving a rate of 15·8, a very satisfactory record and one below the average rate for the last 10 years which stands at 16·2.

The various Tables contained in the Report explain themselves but it would be advantageous to point out the most noteworthy points in them.

Table I. calls for no particular comment beyond the fact that in the first Quarter of the year the Death-rate was particularly low being only 10·5 per 1000.

Table II. is a more minute analysis of the preceding Table. It shows that the Holsworthy sub-registration district shows the highest Birth-rate and the lowest Death-rate. Bondleigh district on the other hand, has a Death-rate exceeding the Birth-rate by 1·4, the number of Deaths being one more than the number of Births. This fact must be attributed to the Influenza Epidemic which prevailed during the

are especially noticeable. In the June Quarter the death-rate stood at 28·6 whilst not a single death was recorded during the September Quarter.

The Death-rates of the Parish are to be found in Table III. Blackfriars, Broadwaters, Bridgemale, Wollacombe and Thornbury each have a rate of over 20 and above the mean for 20 years. Alscott has the lowest rate of 8 which might be considered phenomenal and especially as this Parish in 1893 showed the highest Death-rate in the District - 28·9. Shamwickham has a rate of 9·9 followed by Alscott with 9·0 and Broadwaters with 9·1.

Table IV is a most important one and its figures are most favourable to the District - Six deaths only resulted from the Seven Principal Zymotic diseases, whooping Cough causing Four, Diphtheria and Diarrhoea one each. It is only right to state with regard to the last mentioned disease, that the subject of the death from Diarrhoea was 89 years of age and therefore this death was, in all probability, due to Natural decay.

In Table V a detailed statement of the various causes of mortality is given. Influenza was responsible directly for 6 deaths. Pneumonia caused 12 deaths or about double the average of former years. An unusual cause of death will be noted in Class II. Group III viz: Septicæmia. The death of a child aged 10 months was returned as 'Sudden', a most Sad Occurrence.

The only point of interest in Table VI is that the deaths of Infants under 1 year show a marked decrease.

Table VII is a very satisfactory one. The Zymotic rate for the year is 0·89 for 1918 and 1·69 as a ten years mean. Most favourably with the Zymotic rate for England and Wales viz: 2·4. The mean Zymotic rate of the District for the last 20 years being 1·35

and February and also to the prevalence of Influenza during three months proved fatal in 38 cases. This mortality is much above the average. The Mortality from Cancer does not show any increase of late showing the death of 56 persons in 56 cases and Consumption in 50 cases.

Pulmonary Phthisis is responsible for 11 deaths amongst which were two persons of 70 years of age.

The other Non-Zymotic diseases are about the average of former years.

1st Quarter.

Influenza which had re-appeared early in December 1893, increased rapidly in January, 1894. At Wexford, Rathaspick it was epidemic [illegible] causing 4 deaths in a small community numbering not more than 20 persons. Two cases of Diphtheria, happily of a mild type, were reported at the [illegible] in which they [illegible] by an injection of [illegible] from the Dunmanoway [illegible]. Immediate action was taken and precautions being adopted there was no further spread of the disease. Since this was very prevalent in Skibbereen during [illegible] and in the [illegible] Parish in that District was quite general. Cases of the same disease were reported in the Parishes of Dunmanway, Drimoleague, Castlehaven, Roberts Bridge, Kilmacabea and Kilmoe. They are [illegible] that the teeming strength may depart from [illegible] Diphtheria has been [illegible] in the District for a period of more than four years. They fortnight during that period I have had to report the existence of from cases in one or more Parishes, and I would once more urge the necessity of the Council to adopt as soon as possible the "Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act 1889". [illegible] difficulties in attempting to cope with an outbreak of any Infectious disease owing to the very limited information at the disposal of the Medical Officer of Health of an outbreak which is at their disposal.

2nd Quarter.

a fatal case of malignant Scarlatina also within the Parish of Drimoleague. The disease spread to the neighbouring Parish of Kilmacabea, [illegible] of children being attacked and necessitating the closure of the Schools. Three suspicious cases of "Sore throat" supposed to be Diphtheria occurred at Castletown, a Parish in the [illegible] District, but no definite information [illegible] of the complaint could be obtained. Two undoubted cases of the disease have also occurred to visit in the Parish of Dunmanway during [illegible] Intermittent cases which [illegible] persons were attacked by Pneumonia which assumed an epidemic form suggesting a re-occurrence of the [illegible].

3rd Quarter.

A note in my Report book for the month of July states that Scarlatina is on the increase existing in the Parishes of Dunmanway, Kilmoe, Skibbereen, Castlehaven, Roberts Bridge, Drimoleague, Kilmacabea, Castletownshend, Ballydehob, Schull, Goleen, Ballydehob, Kilmoe

last named Parish several children were noted to be suffering from Whooping Cough which made its appearance towards the end of November and at the close of the year a few children residing in Ashreetter were attacked with the same disease.

Water Supply.

The water supply of the District, with the exception of Holsworthy and Black Torrington, has been satisfactory during the past year. During the early part of the year owing to the very small amount of rainfall in January and March, the public wells in Holsworthy had to be closed except for a very limited period daily, and grave fears were entertained that the water supply would altogether fail during the coming Summer. Fortunately the Summer proved to be a very wet one and the Town did not experience the almost Annual recurrence of a scarcity of water. The precarious nature and the notorious insufficiency of the water supply for the Town of Holsworthy (to say nothing of its very doubtful purity) must very shortly engage your most serious attention. One well on the South side has been enlarged.

As regards Black Torrington many complaints were received as to the want of water. I made a careful inspection of the village and found that the water supply was quite sufficient for the needs of its inhabitants, but that the 'scarcity of water' was due to the defective condition of many of the pumps, some being very old and quite worn out. A new well might, with advantage, be sunk on a vacant piece of land which exists in the centre of the village.

Sewage.

In Holsworthy the sewers have been kept in good condition throughout the year and there has been no complaint as to the condition of the various outfalls. The subsiding tanks have been improved. The capabilities and effective condition of the sewers & subsiding tanks were severely tested during the extraordinary rainfall which occurred in the early part of November, but they were quite equal to the sudden emergency.

An extension of the drainage at Bradworthy has been made in a part of the village which hitherto has been without any adequate provision for the carrying away of sewage matters.

A complaint having been made to the Local Government Board by certain residents in Black Torrington that the sanitary state of the village was in a deplorable state, in conjunction with the Inspector of Nuisances and the Guardians for the Parish, I made a thorough inspection of the drainage and houses in the village. My report on the present system of drainage showed that it was very defective. The dip-stone traps connecting the drains were miniature cesspools which in hot and dry weather must become most offensive.

They should all be removed and properly constructed gully traps substituted The Ventilators were useless, opening directly into the dip-stone traps, not being connected in any way with the drains. at present no action has been taken on my report - A new drain has been laid in one portion of the village to take the sewage from that part to a proper outfall. Hitherto the sewage was allowed to run into the water-tabling adjoining the high-road

Slaughter-houses- The public slaughter-house in Holsworthy which in years past has needed the constant attention and oft-repeated vigorous action of your Health Officers, has been much improved as regards efficiency during the past year. The great cause of complaint was its offensiveness and this has been due to the carelessness and want of supervision over the persons employed in the business. This has been remedied and a much more satisfactory condition has ensued. A bye-law to regulate the time and manner of the removal of the offal from the Station yard would be of inestimable benefit to the Town -

The slaughter-house at Hatwill has always been found to be clean and well conducted and has given no cause of complaint -

Eight houses have been dealt with under the 'Housing of the Working Classes Act 1890'; two of which have been closed by magisterial order. Owing to the prevalence of Scarlatina no less than thirty houses have been disinfected and lime-washed during the year, thereby entailing a large amount of extra work on the part of your officers; the means of disinfecting bedding, clothing etc: at their disposal being of a very inadequate description -

I have the honour to be,

Mr Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

Walter Gordon-Gray.

M.O.H.

Holsworthy.

February 27th 1895.